

The BEEHIVE

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Phoenix Arizona

TEMPLE TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC TOURS

With construction completed, the Phoenix Arizona Temple, on Pinnacle Peak Road in the northwest part of the Phoenix Valley, will open for public tours October 10 through November 1 and, following the November 16 dedicatory services, will begin operation November 18, serving 16 stakes and making it the 144th operating temple of the Church, the fifth in Arizona.



Photo by Dave Simonson

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Photo by Dave Simonson

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Phoenix Arizona TEMPLE TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC TOURS

To ensure compliance with the height regulations of the existing residential zoning, the Phoenix Arizona Temple was completely redesigned and, as a result, has a more intricate steeple, a much larger footprint and more than twice the square footage of the original design.

In the northwest sector of the Valley of the Sun, on Pinnacle Peak Road, stands the Phoenix Arizona Temple—a pinnacle of the hopes, dreams and spiritual yearnings of Latter-day Saints in the 16 stakes in Phoenix, Glendale, Surprise, Peoria, Buckeye, Goodyear, Deer Valley, Cottonwood and Prescott that make up the temple district.

The construction of the Phoenix Temple, the fifth in the state, was announced by President Thomas S. Monson on May 24, 2008. Now complete, the temple will open for public tours October 10 through November 1, and, when dedicated November 16, will be the Church's 144th operating temple.

At the groundbreaking ceremony in

June 2011, Elder Ronald A. Rasband, of the Presidency of the Seventy, said the temple would be “beautiful and magnificent” and that it would bless both the Latter-day Saint population and the Phoenix community.

“It’s wonderful to have a temple so close,” says Lynn Maxfield, of the Peoria Ward, Peoria Stake, who, with her husband, Mike, has been an ordinance worker in the Mesa Arizona Temple for the past 11 years.

Dave Simonson, of the Thunderbird Hills Ward, Glendale North Stake, agrees. Dave, who lives just a mile from the Phoenix Temple, has had the assignment from the Church

Continued on pg. 5

Photo by Dave Simonson



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to photograph the construction.

"It is pretty awesome. All along it has been 'my temple,' and this assignment has made it even more personal," he says.

For Porter Brothers, the general contractors, those personal feelings run deep.

"It was different than any other job be-

cause of my personal feelings about temples," says Chase Porter, Project Engineer with Porter Brothers and a member of the Hawes Ward, Queen Creek Stake.

He says, from the outset, "We really wanted to put our best foot forward and to do a good job;" and, in addition, "We wanted our subcontractors to have a great experience. We were representing the Church and we wanted to do that well."

Chase says they were able to see the hand of the Lord in the process, even in the beginning. When representatives of the Church initially met with residents in the area to discuss the project and to share a rendition of

the proposed site design, some expressed concerns over increased traffic as well as the color, lighting and the height of the temple.

"We wanted our subcontractors to have a great experience. We were representing the Church and we wanted to do that well."

After much discussion—and even though the Phoenix Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council approve the rezoning application that would allow the Church

to construct the temple at 40 feet high—Church officials announced in January 2010 that the temple would be completely redesigned to comply with the existing zoning limit of 30 feet.

"From the original 27,000-square foot design, the redesign more than doubled the size, to 60,000-square feet," that included a much larger footprint as well as a basement and sub-basement, Chase says. "The new design is nicely proportioned, and the way it steps back in, with a spire coming from that, to me, it is much more pleasing to the eye."

"The Lords' plan is so much better than what we had even hoped for. It re-



Photo by Dave Simonson

Construction workers and several Church members from the surrounding area, gathered on May 15, 2013, to watch the milestone event when the gold-leafed angel Moroni statue was installed on the spire of the Phoenix Arizona Temple.

ally turned out the way it was supposed to," he says.

Once the new design was approved, the construction "had to come together quickly to maintain schedules," Chase says. Yet, he adds, far from being "thrown together" a high standard of quality and craftsmanship was expected and adhered to throughout the project.

They communicated, first with estimators and then with crews, explaining the standard of quality that the Church expected and was willing to pay for,

Chase says.

One of the subcontractors was Western Millwork, a Phoenix-based company owned by Bill Roach. Project manager, Robert McKee, says their work included all the wood—the doors, jams, moldings, altars and window trim, as well as veneered panels and columns of sapele, a wood of the mahogany family in the "fanciest" instruction room, and laser-cut

Continued on pg. 6



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Phoenix Arizona Temple
Continued from pg. 5

patterns of the saguaro medallion, “an emulated saguaro blossom” in some of the wood.

He says their crew, which included up to 15 workers at times, enjoyed the opportunity to work on a project with “such good carpentry and such a beautiful design.”

“You run into a project like this once in a lifetime. I’ve been working for 17 years in millwork, and I’ve never had an opportunity to work on a building like that before,” McKee says. “You just don’t see buildings like this. It’s really high class.”

“I tell everyone they have to go see this thing during the open house,” McKee says.

In addition to the beautiful woodwork throughout the temple, open house visitors will enjoy murals by Keith Bond, a stained-glass focal point, and the presentation of the local terra-cotta element in the second instruction room.

Spencer Stewart, superintendent with Porter Brothers, says there are other, less-obvious things about the Phoenix Temple that add to its beauty and it’s meaning for him.

“One of the interesting things that not many people know is that I had the unique experience of working



Photo by Dave Simonson

The use of precast concrete pieces and panels allowed for dramatic detailing and design elements like ellipses and agave stalks and blossoms to be incorporated into the exterior design of the Phoenix Arizona Temple.

with my father, Dawson Stewart, on this project. He was the project manager, so we were on the job, one-on-one together much of the time.”

He says, “To be working with my dad on a temple—to be working with him on building that has so much to do with creating eternal family ties—was just such a blessing.”

Spencer says it caused him to think back to pioneer times, when “they often worked on temples as families” and, also to consider “some of the sacrifices

they made to do so.”

Spencer and Dawson, who also are members of the Hawes Ward in Queen Creek Stake, often left their homes early in the morning and “sometimes I didn’t get home until my kids were in bed,” Spencer says. He and his wife, Jenny, have four children, ages 14, 5, 3, and 1.

“It was a sacrifice we knew we were making when I took on the project,” he says, “but we were okay doing that. We wanted to do it, and the blessing

come.”

Dawson, too, relishes the experience of working with his son and says he gained a new appreciation for what goes into the construction, and, especially, into the design of a temple.

“I was amazed at the things built into the design and the purpose for them,” he says. Not only are things designed to be true and square and as perfect as possible, he says, but certain elements are also intended to teach and instruct.

“I was amazed to see how much attention there is to the principle of progression in the temple design, so that even the finish in one room needs to be slightly better, a little more elegantly done than in a previous room,” Dawson says.

He says, often, such as time when others had left and he was alone to shut the site down for the night, he had times to reflect and to think: “How could you possibly build something of more import or consequence than a temple? There is not anything of more importance,” he says. “It’s not just a building. Not at all.”

“It was an honor,” Chase says. “It was a lot of hard work, but it was such an honor to be a part of it.”

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PHOENIX ARIZONA

TEMPLE

OPEN HOUSE DETAILS

※ OPEN HOUSE DATES

Friday, 10 October, thru Saturday,
1 November 2014, excluding
Sundays

※ RESERVATIONS

Open house tickets will
be available at [www.
templeopenhouse.lds.org/tickets](http://www.templeopenhouse.lds.org/tickets)
beginning Monday, September 29,
at 10 a.m. MST.

※ PARKING

Guests should plan to arrive early
to allow time for traffic and parking.
Parking attendants will be on hand.

※ INVITED

The general public, including
children of all ages. Admission is
free, but reservations are requested.

※ TOURS

Tours will begin in the chapel on
the east side of the temple, with
a 10-minute video, followed by a
tour of the temple. After the tour,
guests may visit a reception area
to enjoy displays about the temple
and ask questions.

※ DRESS

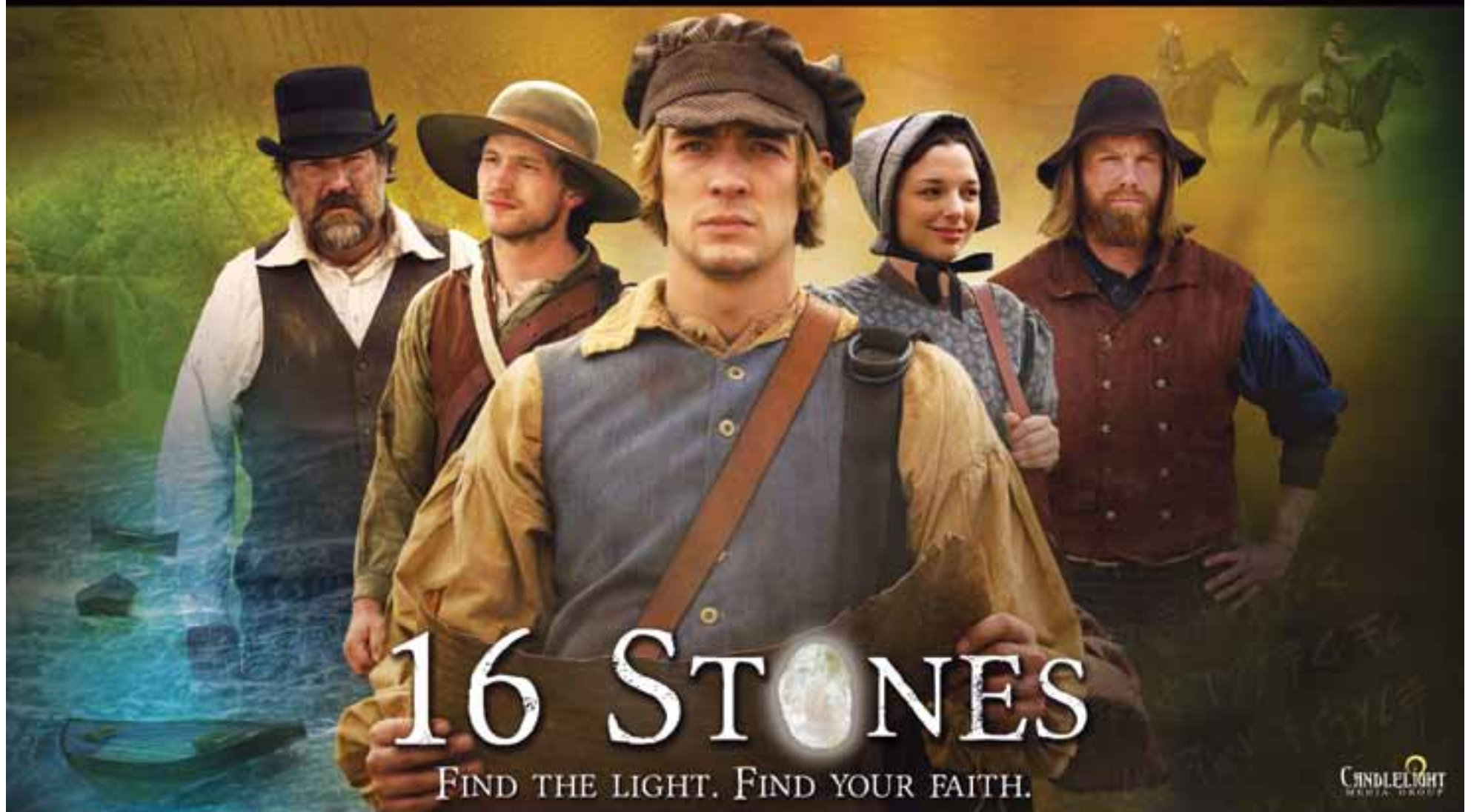
Modest dress is requested.

DEDICATION DETAILS

※ DEDICATION

Regular three-hour block meetings
will be cancelled on Sunday,
November 16 for all Arizona stakes
and districts, and the Temple will
be dedicated in three sessions
that will be broadcast to Arizona
meetinghouses, at 10 a.m., 1
p.m. and 4 p.m. that day. Specific
instructions for attendance will
be made available through local
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Third Annual FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE to be Held in Tempe

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Mesa FamilySearch Library will host its third annual Family History Conference on October 25, with topics and classes for beginner genealogists and seasoned family history buffs as well.

The conference theme, “Putting the Puzzle Together,” comes from the fact that “Finding your ancestors can be one of the most interesting puzzles you can work on,” states the Mesa FamilySearch Library website.

The keynote address will be presented by Dennis Brimhall, CEO of FamilySearch, one of the largest family history sites in the world. A graduate of Brigham Young University, Brother Brimhall later received an MBA from Northwestern University. He has served in numerous Church callings, including stake president, high councilor and mission president. He was named a member of the Sixth Quorum of the Seventy in 2009 and honorably released in April 2014.

In addition to an excellent keynote speaker, the conference will feature “a very strong teaching team of subject

experts and content experts for family research,” says Gordon Mulleneaux, conference chair.

“Our strength is in their diversity of backgrounds,” he says. “At this year’s conference we have several people who bring new perspective to us about their family history research. Also people are bringing some of the more modern tools of genealogy, using an iPad for example or using social media for family history.”

There will be a total of 55 classes, 10 more than last year.

The classes cover a wide variety of topics pertaining to family history, including classes about the FamilySearch site, ancestry.com, maps, censuses, social media, in addition to specific training on various records—Swedish, German, English, French.

A complete list of classes and bios of all presenters are available at mesafsl.org.

Brother Mulleneaux says, even those who have done very little in the way of family history will find helpful tips and motivation at this conference.

“It is very exciting to research about our ancestors. What motivated them to move from one spot to another spot? Was it in search of freedom? Or, were they escaping some family tragedy?”

“Oftentimes,” he says, “people learn things about their ancestors they did not previously know.”

Brother Mulleneaux says, “Another reason family history is so popular in today’s world is that the modern computer is constantly changing how the family researcher can look for information, including online books, available databases in various parts of the world and software programs that provide research tools unavailable only a few short years ago.”

He says since he retired about four years ago, he spends at least 35 to 40 hours a week in family history, either working on his own family history or helping others in their search. He’s found, “In order to stay current, the family researcher must look at all the new tools and new techniques which are coming rapidly to family history research.”



Photo courtesy of Mesa FamilySearch Library

Dennis Brimhall, CEO of FamilySearch, will be the keynote speaker at the third annual Family History Conference that will be held at the Tempe Institute of Religion in October.

The conference will be held at the Tempe Institute of Religion on the ASU Campus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 25.

The conference is free, but online registration is required and box lunches (optional) may be purchased at www.mesafsl.org. Registration will be closed at 720 registrations, as that is the maximum number the conference can accommodate.

“We invite all to come and research with us and learn of the various available research tools,” Brother Mulleneaux says.



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Mesa Woman Leaves *Legacy of Love of Music,* Family and Her Heritage

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

She will be remembered by many for her smile, her example of gratitude and the music she so readily shared—even in the face of her own tough trials.

Tawna Louise Flake-Posegate, 55, passed away June 9.

She was born in Mesa, June 12, 1959, the oldest daughter of Sanford “Sank” and Louise Flake. Tawna grew up in Snowflake, graduating from Snowflake High in 1976.

In a previous interview with the Beehive, she said, “being a Flake from Snowflake” with a dad who was the Town Marshall and, later, the Chief of Police for five years and a mom who taught junior high and high school for 30 years, “I had to be good.”

That was okay by Tawna. “I always wanted to do what was right,” she said.

She started a musical career early in her life, singing with, and being taught by, her dad and her uncle, Melvin Dewitt. She learned to love the violin early on, playing by ear and quickly

demonstrating her knack for memorizing music. Tawna, on the violin, often accompanied her father on his guitar, and they were known for their beautiful harmony.

In high school, Tawna received the J. Rufus Crandell award, given to the top musician of the school, and she earned a scholarship to Northern Arizona University.

She transferred to Snow College, where she studied under Richard and Reed Nibley.

When Tawna served an LDS mission in the Finland Helsinki Mission, her violin went with her. While tract-ing, “we got into a lot of people’s homes by playing the Finnish-composed ‘Be Still My Soul,’ at their door,” Tawna said.

After her mission, Tawna, with her friend, David Peterson, formed Penguin Music and began to record together.

“We were in the recording business for more than 18 years,” David says. “We produced many albums of our



Photo courtesy David Peterson

Tawna Flake-Posegate, who passed away June 9 at 55, will be remembered for her musical talents, her love for the violin and her willingness to share her talents in performances across Arizona.

own, as well as for other artists.”

“We also performed together for local, state and national dignitaries, the Performing Arts Concert Series, numerous LDS Church events, and for General Authorities (including at the Snowflake Arizona Temple Dedication), as well as the Northeastern Arizona White Mountain Silver Creek Symphony,” he says.

Tawna told the Beehive, “The reason God gave this gift to me was to share.”

In 2005, she met the love of her life, Dominick Eugene Posegate. They mar-

ried April 21, 2006, in the Snowflake Arizona Temple, then made Mesa their home.

“She was loved by many and will be greatly missed,” David says.

A musical tribute to Tawna is planned for this fall. David says, “If anyone has pictures or video of her ... or needs more info, please contact me.” Email davidapeterson2020@yahoo.com or call 928-243-2020. To see video tributes to Tawna, find David-Peterson or Nick Posegate on Facebook for links.



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YOUTH in Phoenix Temple District PREPARE for Cultural Celebration

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Be a Light," the theme for the Phoenix Temple Cultural Celebration, is also a challenge of sorts to the more than 4,700 Young Men and Women of the 15 stakes in the Phoenix Temple District who will participate.

According to the director, Allyson Morris, the youth are aptly rising to that challenge.

The Cultural Celebration will be

held at Sunrise Mountain High School in Peoria on Nov. 15, the night before the Temple dedication.

"The theme refers to the sun—as in the sun that is so much a part of our Arizona climate—and also to the Son of God—and how we can be a light to others," says Allyson.

A member of Moon Mountain Ward, Phoenix North Stake, Allyson is hardly a newcomer to Church musical



Photo courtesy Allyson Morris

Shown in front of the new Phoenix Temple they will celebrate in song and dance are director, Allyson Morris, second from right, committee member, Alanna Anderson, and some of the 4,700 youth from 15 stakes who will participate in the Phoenix Temple Cultural Celebration

productions. "I've done 37 musicals for my stake alone," Allyson says.

For this particular assignment, as she prepared to create a script, she says,

"I pulled in five of my favorite friends. We studied and pondered, 'What is our youth's culture?' This is their cultural

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Youth Prepare Cultural Celebration Continued from pg. 10

celebration, so we wanted it to reflect their culture.”

She extensively studied the history of Arizona and the Church’s role in that history. Then, “With the Spirit touching my heart, I went at it,” she says.

The result is a script that focuses on six areas. Youth have been divided into six “regions,” and

each region will celebrate one of the six areas.

These areas include “the Native American culture and the canals that brought life-giving water to the desert,” Allyson says.

Another region celebrates the Hispanic influence

in this area, and, “We have a military base in the Phoenix Temple district, so one area will celebrate the military and the freedoms of America,” Allyson says.

“We also include a celebration of the air conditioner. It was invented in the ‘50s and after that invention, Phoenix doubled in size,” she says, adding that this segment will include a ‘50s number, complete with about 300 poodle skirts.

Another segment focuses on a celebration of talents “and on the huge number of talented kids we have in this area.” The sixth area focuses on the culture of service and missionary work, “celebrating the light we have received and now we have to share,” Allyson says.

This kind of production is energizing for Allyson. “It’s in my blood,” she

says, adding that it has been gratifying to see the youth get involved and excited about the celebration.

“They’re putting 100 percent into it. They’re putting their whole souls into it,” says Allyson.

“They are singing, dancing, celebrating this temple with their whole body.

She says there also has been a tremendous excitement and willingness

to serve and work among the many adult volunteers, including music specialists, dance specialists, medical and security people.

As the youth practice the music and dance numbers in preparation, they are also strengthening their

testimonies and learning more about the temple.

“It’s all about the temple,” she says.

Several of the youth who are participating in the celebration have their pictures and testimonies about the temple posted

Posted on the Cultural Celebration website, at BeALightPhoenix.com, are pictures of several of the youth who are participating in the celebration, along with their testimonies about the temple, along with ideas of what it means to be a light.

For example, Haley, 17, says, “I can be a light by representing the church and spreading the gospel every day.”

Sarah, 16, says, “Going to the temple helps me regain perspective on what’s important in my life and helps me spiritually refuel, similar to a fresh

water spring in the desert.

Sixteen-year-old, Adam, agrees, “The temple is the living water for everyone in the desert.

Allyson says, as they prepare for the Cultural Celebration, the youth are learning the importance of the temple.

“They are learning that they are His kids and this is His temple to bring

them to. It’s very exciting.”

Ryan, 13, says, “It amazes me how blessed we are to have a temple so close to us when some members must drive for days to receive the blessings of the temple.”

Sixteen-year-old Courtney, too, is grateful for a temple that will be so close “that we can call it ‘our temple.’”

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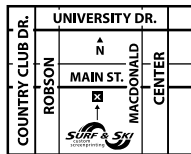


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Arizona's Mother *of the* Year Finds Fun & Purpose as a Mother

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"My greatest work, my magnum opus, is my family," says Lila Shoemaker, who was named Arizona's 2014 Mother of the Year in May and represented Arizona in April at the national American Mothers, Inc. (AMI) convention.

The seventh of eight children of Grant and Kathleen Palmer, Lila was born and raised in Mesa and graduated from Mesa Community College.

She and her husband, Earl Daniel Shoemaker, are members of the Lazona Ward, Mesa Arizona Maricopa Stake. They have six grown children and 19 grandchildren, with more on the way.

Lila has been involved with AMI for the past 30 years, serving in various

state board positions and on the national board for seven years.

"I can see no greater vocation than to promote positive mothering and strengthening the moral and spiritual foundation of every family in America," she says.

She says she followed the pattern of parenting she saw in her own home.

"I learned parenting from my parents," Lila says. "My mother and father parented with purpose. ... they wanted to teach us to love each other and get along."

In much the same way, the Shoemakers used music lessons, sports, Scouting and church attendance to help instill those values in their children.

"I believe that parents are stewards



Photo by E. Daniel Shoemaker

Arizona's 2014 Mother of the Year, Lila Shoemaker, says her greatest treasure and accomplishment is her family--husband, E. Daniel Shoemaker, their 6 children and 19 grandchildren.

over God's children, and that parenting is the greatest work I will ever do," Lila says.

While doing that great work, Lila says, it also is important to "find the fun."

"Daniel and I were poor when we bought an old house, with a leaky roof, but it had a big backyard with fruit trees. We'd 'find the fun' by climbing the trees, we canned the fruit, we built a sandbox, planted a huge garden, and set up a small farm with a goat, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, and pigs."

Music also added to their family fun. Lila learned to love music as a child and performed with many Arizona choirs and theatre companies,

including Notations, a local women's song and dance troupe she performed with for 14 years.

She sang while changing diapers and raising kids, "and as a result they all have fantastic voices," Lila laughs. Her children have been involved in "all kinds of music from writing, to learning to play and performing."

Sister Shoemaker also enjoys using her music to serve God and to sing His praises.

"I've shared the skills I was taught, teaching children songs that remind them of God, our relationship with Him and His creations and expectations.

Continued on pg. 13

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East Valley Stakes Host 2014 Singles Conference

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Arizona East Valley Singles Conference 2014, for singles ages 31 and older, will be October 23 through 26.

The theme, “If not me, who? If not now, when?” refers to the quote from Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, “[Christ says] ... I need someone to feed my sheep and save my lambs. I need someone to preach my gospel and defend my faith. I need someone who loves me, truly, truly loves me.”

Hosted by nine East Valley stakes, the conference includes a variety of activities, beginning Thursday at the Gilbert Temple, with participants attending an endowment session or a family history activity in the adjoining chapel, followed by refreshments by Waffle Love in the chapel parking lot.

Friday evening will feature fun social mixers and two dances.

Saturday will start with a key-note address, followed by workshops

throughout the day, including one by Jonathan Decker, licensed marriage and family therapist and certified instructor of the class, “How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk(ette).” (See www.jdeckertherapy.com.)

After the workshops will be a luau dinner and entertainment, then two dances, one under the stars and one inside.

On Sunday, a singles sacrament meeting will be followed by a light dinner, a closing address and music by William Joseph, pianist. Phoenix native, William Joseph worked with David Foster on his major-label solo debut and continues to be in demand for high-profile musical events. The conference will be at the American Leadership Academy, 23908 S. Hawes Road in Queen Creek. For details, visit: <http://www.ldssinglesmingleandmore.com/conferences-regional-events.html>

AZ Mother of the Year Continued from pg. 12

I learned to lead the church choir in praises to God.”

Her children did summer swim team and were involved with summer Little League and girls’ softball, with Sister Shoemaker often coaching and assisting the teams.

Scouting, too, was a big part of their family life.

“We have always been heavily involved with Scouting,” she says. “I was a Scoutmaster’s wife for many years and all four of our sons are Eagle Scouts.”

Lila learned American Sign Language, became an interpreter and continues to volunteer with the Deaf.

She currently teaches reading and math skills at Emerson Elementary School, and beginning violin and guitar at Burke Basic Elementary School. She also serves with her husband as a Church service missionary with the BYU-Idaho Pathway program.

In addition, she strives to help other mothers in any way she can.

“I learned marvelous skills as a mother—patience, understanding, child development and a love and appreciation for God and His wisdom in creating families. [Now] I apply all that I learned, to help other mothers and children. I encourage mothers and assist my own daughters (and in-laws) in their greatest role in life—mother.”

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A Conversation with the Younger Generation



Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Nothin's better than a good visit with young, sharp people. I'm blessed to have many among my family and friends. "Pure gold," I call them.

We know, Latter-day Saints believe Heaven saved its strongest spirits for now. Hope reigns as golden kids strive and excel to meet expectations. They come from every faith and culture.

Recently, I enjoyed a visit with my nephew Taylor Tenney of Gilbert who just returned from a mission in south western Guatemala.

My, my, he's steady; a reflection of

his parents, Joseph and Debbie Tenney of Gilbert. He understands his generation's mission. "We are the generation where there is no gray line, we must take a side," he says.

We were discussing the valiant work of many, in and out of the Church and the need to join voices and efforts. We pondered a visit by a leading Christian theologian educator to Church leaders on Temple Square, who also spoke to the BYU student body. (Deseret News 11.2.13).

Minister Albert Mohler, Jr., discussed what he called, "The break-

down in the immune system of society, the enormous and fairly radical moral changes." He explained immunity protects a body from illness, but society has "rather intentionally lowered the resistance level to some very dangerous developments."

As for today's youth who are "swimming against a secular tide," he said, "They must defend their convictions and learn early who they are and what they believe in."

Taylor agrees: "We have to join together with good people of all faiths in hopes to overcome the enemy of ALL

righteousness. We must live in such a way that others would be glad to follow us."

Taylor's father, my brother, is serving as Bishop of the Williams Ward, Gilbert Arizona YSA Stake, which puts him within a heartbeat of the strength of the youth. He joined our conversation: "Like disease, courage is contagious! One, willing to stand alone, can make a difference that is everlasting! It is through the small and simple things that great things are brought to pass."

"We see in our young people the very best that God has prepared," Bishop Tenney said. "I have seen this great courage countless times! These are true 'Helaman's Sons and Daughters.' Darkness always has to give way to light. His light ... through these most wonderful youth!"

It's good to remember: As we look for options in our unstable world, we find them in our youth. Most youth. They are to be invested in, counted on, protected in all we say and do. As we fight for change, fight for that which blesses the youngest among us.

Finding ways to join others with the same goals – rather than shun other groups of faith – is what the Lord intended and how LDS youth can shine their lights beyond their own memberships. Though formal missionary work is important, being one in purpose leads to that divine standard in preparation for Christ's return.



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BYU Ballroom Dance Company to Perform in Mesa

The internationally traveled and highly praised Ballroom Dance Company from Brigham Young University will perform in Mesa at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 23.

Billed as "an enchanting, family-designed evening of spectacular dance," the performance will be held at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main Street, in Mesa.

For further details about the Ballroom Dance Company event, and to purchase tickets, visit: BYUAZ.org.

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LDS Gymnast Sets Her Sights on 2016 Olympics

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

Mykayla Skinner is starting her senior year in high school in a big way.

On August 23, the Gilbert teen and member of Lyons Gate Ward, Higley Stake, earned two silver medals at the 2014 P&G Gymnastics Championships in Pittsburgh. She also was named the fifth best all-around gymnast in the U.S. and earned a spot on the Senior USA National Team for the second consecutive year.

The following day, Mykayla boarded a bus for the Senior Pan American Championships in Canada. She hopes to earn a place at the World Championships in China this fall. Each competition is a step on her journey to the 2016 Olympics.

The petite 17-year-old, who trains at Desert Lights Gymnastics in Chandler, has steadily risen to the top.

At the 2012 P&G National Championships, she earned a bronze medal on vault and came in 15th in the all-around, barely missing the chance to compete in the 2012 Olympic trials. A year later, at the 2013 championships, Mykayla

took the bronze in both vault and floor exercise and sixth in the all-around.

For the past seven years, she has trained under the watchful eye of National Team coordinator, Martha Karolyi, in Houston.

Mykayla represented the U.S. in Italy at the Trophy of Jesolo competition last March. Her two individual gold medals for vault and floor helped the U.S. win the team gold.

Mykayla also finished first at a recent National Team Training Camp verification, ahead of 2012 Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. In August, she earned a silver medal on vault and fifth place in the all-around at the 2014 Secret U.S. Classic in Chicago.

Her favorite element is the double-double-laid-out on the floor exercise. Her routine is one of the most difficult in the world.

"In the past year, I have really grown a lot," Mykayla says of both her ability and her confidence. She prepares mentally and spiritually for every competition.

"Before I go to bed, I think about



Photo by Katelyn Wiley

Champion gymnast, Mykayla Skinner, of Gilbert, earned a spot on the Senior USA National Team for the second consecutive year and has set her sights on competing in the 2016 Olympics.

my routines, and I pray a lot," she says.

Her coach, Lisa Spini, says, "Mykayla is currently ranked No. 1 in the world on vault and has the highest start value in the world on floor exercise."

Mykayla spends over 31 hours each week at the gym. She begins school at 6:30 a.m., eats lunch at home and heads to the gym just after noon. She and her coach also spend five days each month training in Houston.

Mykayla's mom, Kym, has worked part-time at the gym and organizes gymnastic meets to help defer expenses for the costly sport. She and husband,

Cris, are their daughter's biggest cheerleaders.

"This has been a great year for Mykayla," says her mother. "It's amazing. She's a whole different athlete, and her dance has really progressed."

After high school graduation, Mykayla plans to take a year off to focus on gymnastics and prepare for the 2016 Olympic team trials. In the meantime, Mykayla's senior year at Higley High School will be a memorable one. Along with juggling homework and finals, Skinner will be vaulting, twisting and flipping her way around the world.

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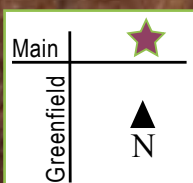
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Arizona Students Enjoy Educational Opportunities, Cost Savings of BYU-Idaho PATHWAY PROGRAM

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The BYU-Idaho Pathway distance-learning program takes priesthood-driven, Church-sponsored higher education to thousands of students around the world. In 2009, when Pathway was launched, Mesa was one of three pilot sites.

By the time the 2014 winter semester began, Pathway had reached 7,000 students and 170 sites were under operation or had been announced from Alaska to South Africa, including in 18 countries.

The Arizona program has seen steady growth as well, and, in July the East Mesa and West Mesa sites were again “pilots.”

“We held the first multi-site graduation,” says Elder Daniel Shoemaker, who, with his wife, Lila, serves as a service missionary with the Pathway program.

“This graduation ceremony was another groundbreaking experience ...

a model for future such events,” said Elder Robert George. “There are a few smaller sites that are doing this, but nothing as large as the Mesa sites.”

The graduation was held at Mesa Community College Institute of Religion, where 600 were in attendance to honor approximately 200 graduates, ranging in age from 18 to 72.

The program’s popularity stems from the fact that it is a perfect fit for many who “have faced barriers of cost, time, fear, or lack of confidence to succeed in a university environment,” the program website states. “Pathway provides an educational opportunity never before thought possible.”

“Pathway is a low-cost educational opportunity that combines online courses with local gatherings,” it explains. “Students earn college credit that is eligible for transfer to BYU-Idaho and other universities.”



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

At a recent orientation event, Church-service missionaries with the Pathway program conducted interviews, answered questions, gave information and signed up new applicants, bringing the total to more than 300 who signed up to participate in the Pathway program at the new Gateway site.

Students in the Pathway receive most of their instruction online, then meet weekly, typically in local meetinghouses, for institute classes and academic review. Each semester, students take five credit hours of classes, including institute, and the Pathway program takes three semesters, or one year, to complete.

That preparatory year opens the doors so students can go on to certificate, two-year degree, and four-year degree programs.

“As Church-service missionaries, we are called to oversee a cohort of students and to guide them through the

program,” Elder Shoemaker says.

In addition to the convenience of online classes, the blessings of religious education and the support of missionaries as mentors, Pathway students find significant cost advantages as well.

“The cost is only \$65 per credit hour,” says Elder Shoemaker.

That’s less than half the cost of a similar course taught on the BYU-Idaho campus and far less than other universities, Elder Shoemaker explains.

After the first year online, tuition stays at the same low level for students

Continued on pg. 21



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Empowers Teens to “Own” Their Success

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Dennis Deaton, nationally known as a corporate educator and popular convention speaker, has trained thousands of businessmen and women over the past 25 years.

Now, his message is making a dramatic difference for teens across the country.

That message of personal responsibility and accountability, unique in the business world, is almost unheard of among some teenagers today. Dr. Deaton calls it “Ownership Spirit.”

Ownership Spirit is his trademark and the topic of his fifth book, the 2009 Best Books Award Winner in the Business Motivation category, titled *Ownership Spirit: The One Grand Key that Changes Everything Else*.

“Ownership Spirit is a way of managing our thoughts, so we think like an owner, rather than a victim, and create

a winning situation for everyone,” Dr. Deaton says.

A member of the Thayer Park Ward, Mountain View Stake, Dr. Deaton has taught similar principles in church settings as well, encouraging accountability and “tough-minded ownership” in adult education courses for the Church Education System and as a regular speaker at BYU Campus Education Week for 25 years.

He says it’s been gratifying to see the effect these principles have, especially in the workplace. Employees who embrace ownership “are healthier and more productive, and the company prospers as employees become more engaged in their work and promoting company success,” he says.

Yet, while grateful for his many past opportunities, he sees his latest endeavor as the culmination of his life’s work.

“It is so interesting how the Lord

leads us along. I’m realizing that all the work I’ve done in the business world was to prepare the way and hone the message so sorely needed by young people today.”

Case in point: the large percentage of high school students who struggle to finish, many dealing with chronic challenges they’ve had throughout their school years. Statistics show more than 8,000 students drop out of high school every day. Among those who do begin some form of post-secondary education, one-third quit in the first year.

“What is missing for many young people is a particular skillset. More specifically, they are missing a set of

thought processes that produce successful skills and traits. They are missing the Ownership Spirit,” Dr. Deaton says.

Education leader Dana Van Deinse



Photo by Aubrey Startin Photography

After more than 20 years as a corporate trainer, Dennis Deaton, now teaches principles of “ownership thinking” to teens, equipping them for success through an online accountability and empowerment course called Own It!

Continued on pg. 21



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Sisters In A Chord

Continue Family Tradition of Four-Part Harmony

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Sisters In A Chord is the latest brainchild of Doreen Hansen of the Mesa Arizona Lehi Stake. The four-part harmony barbershop-quartet style group consists of teenage girls, all related to the former group known as the Threet Sisters.

Erica, Emily, Alison, and Carly Threet, who made up the original Threet Sisters group, have continued to sing together throughout the years, even though they are now married and have children of their own.

"The girls are my grandnieces—daughters of my niece, Melanie Threet," says Doreen. Doreen was the

one who taught four-part harmony to her grandnieces and instilled in them a love for the barbershop style. Now, she is doing the same with their younger sisters, Bethany Threet, 14, and Lauren, 12, and Erica's daughter, Kateyn Wiezbowski, 11, who make up the core of the "next generation" group, *Sisters In A Chord*. Sister Hansen is currently searching for a fourth singer to complete the group.

"Singing the powerfully balanced sounds of four-part harmony provides an invaluable learning atmosphere, a rich, rewarding experience and gives girls and women an opportunity for fel-



Photo courtesy Doreen Hansen

The Threet Sister, daughters of Melanie and Sterling Threet, formed a group and, for many years, sang barbershop-style four-part harmony together. Now, their younger sisters are learning to sing four-part harmony as part of the Young Women in Harmony group. Shown (l to r) are Katelyn Wiezbowski, Erica Wiezbowski, Emily Orines, Alison Richardson, Carly Morris, Bethany Threet and Lauren Threet.

lowship, fun and personal fulfillment," Sister Hansen says.

"A wide variety of songs, tempo, choreography and costuming can be showcased in the barbershop style today," she adds. "Like all music styles, barbershop harmony has expanded,

adapted and evolved over time."

Sister Hansen says she first learned to love the barbershop style years ago, when she sang with the International Champion Scottsdale Sweet Adeline Chorus.

"My time singing with Scottsdale Chorus and learning the art of singing four-part harmony, has been my motivation to continue teaching others the joy of singing in this style," says Hansen.

Doreen has a similar purpose behind teaching classes and forming the new *Sisters In A Chord* group. With both endeavors, she wants to teach musical excellence, to advance the musical art form of four-part harmony and to enrich the lives of girls and women.

"The girls and women will develop their vocal skills, discover the joy of singing in their lives, create something beautiful together that could never be created separately, take a break from the 'woes of the world' each week and let music become their joy, their spiritual discipline, and their weekly therapy session, to experience the thrill of show business by providing wholesome family-style entertainment."

Sisters In A Chord has a Christmas program scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, December 5, at the LDS Interstake Center, 830 E. 2nd Avenue, in Mesa. Families, friends and the general public are invited. There is no charge for the event; however, they are a nonprofit group and do welcome donations, Sister Hansen says.

She adds that the group is available to provide wholesome, family-style entertainment at care centers, senior citizen groups, ward and stake events, private parties and other community gatherings.

Sister Hansen holds classes weekly on Wednesdays in the Inter-Stake Center. Girls ages 11-17 meet from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and women ages 18 and older, from 7 to 9. Participants are asked to pay a small fee to help defray the cost of music-related expenses. Register at www.SistersinaChord.com, or, for more information, contact Doreen Hansen at 480-577-7600.



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recognized the same thing when she first heard a presentation by Dr. Deaton in 2010 and immediately realized what a difference this message could make for high school and college students.

Their desire to help young people succeed led Deaton and Van Deinse to join forces. Together they formed Grand Key Education (GKE) and created an exciting new online course called *Own It!*. Based on principles taught in the business world, *Own It!* is the first-ever teen empowerment and accountability course.

"*Own It!* instills real-world success skills, including mind management, problem-solving and goal setting. It teaches students to overcome mental barriers and ineffective habits and replace them with traits of tough-minded owners—all in a format that resonates with today's students," Van Deinse says.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, Van Deinse adds.

"*Own It!* opens a new world for students," Deaton says. "Suddenly, they see that they *can* have success. They *can* develop the skillset and thought processes that lead them to realize their hopes for a quality education and a meaningful career."

Just months since its launch, the course is already being used by more than 6,000 students. It is being implemented as part of the required curriculum of online schools like the Atlanta, Georgia-based Provost Academy, used in traditional classrooms and by home-schoolers, and was recently released for individuals to purchase for their own use.

For more about *Own It!*, visit www.GrandKeyEd.com and like them on Facebook at facebook.com/Ownitwow.

Arizona's ROCKIN' with Talent Announces Auditions and Public-Invited Finale Event

"Arizona's ROCKIN' with Talent," encourages individuals to share their talents, while benefitting Setting Them Free, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that helps patients with medical bills not covered by insurance.

ROCKIN' with Talent auditions will be Thursday, October 2, from 4 to 7 p.m. at East Valley High School (or send a YouTube link to: andrea@settingthemfree.org). Entries will be accepted in four categories: ages 3-11, 12-17, 18 and up and miscellaneous talent.

Three acts will be chosen from each category, and those finalists will perform live at the public-invited event Saturday, October 25, from 7 to 10 p.m.

at East Valley High School, 7420 E. Main Street in Mesa. Judging will be conducted by three judges and the audience, by use of smart phones.

Winners of each category will receive a prize. The top winner will receive a package worth \$500 to stay at the Dutton Hotel for three nights in Branson, Missouri, and appear in three pre-show performances.

The contest is open to Arizona residents only and, if under the age of 18, must have permission to participate. Setting Them Free reserves the right to refuse an audition to any individual or act it considers dangerous or offensive or that has sexual content or dress.

For more information, visit settingthemfree.org.

Pathway Program Continued from pg. 17

who go on to work toward completion of a two- or four-year degree.

As the program has grown in numbers, it also has expanded academically. At the beginning of 2013, there were seven bachelor's degrees to choose from and just more than 130 courses online. Additional degrees are being added all the time and it was anticipated that "the number of online courses will likely double by the end of 2015."

Arizona has recently opened five new sites in Chinle, Prescott, Show Low, Thatcher and Gateway (serving Gilbert/Queen Creek).

More than 320 students registered for the Gateway site, making it the third largest Pathway site in the world, and classes will be taught in two locations: the Highland High School Seminary building and San Tan Park Ward meetinghouse.

Kathleen George, who, with her husband, Robert, serves at the Mesa West site, says they have enjoyed being part of "Arizona's exponential growth, since the beginning in 2009."

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of serving as a Pathway missionary is watching the Pathway program change members' lives for the better," Sister George says.

"It's an amazing experience to witness students feeling of God's love for them personally, while deepening their testimony and increasing their faith," she says. "Attaining a higher education for most students is a lifelong dream and Pathway offers an opportunity to accomplish this goal. As missionaries, we are continually blessed by our association with these students in the Pathway program."

For more information about Pathway, visit: www.pathway.lds.org



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Arizona native publishes Saints and Sinners—the second book in a series

By Jennifer Griffith
The Beehive

Arizona native Virgil Alexander, of the Shalimar Ward, Tempe Stake, recently released his second book in a series.

Set in Mexico and the Gila Valley of Arizona, *Saints and Sinners* follows the cross-cultural detective friends introduced in *The Wham Curse*, deputies Bren Allred and Manny Sanchez, and San Carlos tribal officer Al Victor, and brings in a new law enforcement talent from south of the border, Emilio Campos.

The story begins when a hit-man,

assigned to kill Mariana, a beautiful young Mexican girl, can't bring himself to do it after hearing her sing. Instead, he confesses to policeman Emilio Campos—begging the officer to help save the girl's life before the

drug lords get someone else to pull the trigger.

The escape Campos concocts results in a chain of events that crosses both sides of the border and

stretches as far as Spain and involves the maximum efforts of the trio of cops from southern Arizona. The stakes get higher as drug smugglers

are killed, Manny's family is put at risk and clues that Mariana may still be alive trickle back to her enemies.

Brother Alexander says, "The plot for any mystery generally includes a 'treasure,' something desirable, which incites violence. In my first book, it was literally a trove of stolen gold and silver. In this book, it is beautiful and gifted young woman who inadvertently becomes a liability to a ruthless gang."

The murder mystery "also has some elements of thriller, international intrigue, and adventure," the author says. He believes *Saints and Sinners* will strongly appeal to those who love the local landscape and those who like seeing the way the minds of policemen work as they dig into tough cases.

Although he worked in mining, he has been around law enforcement all his life through family members in that career.

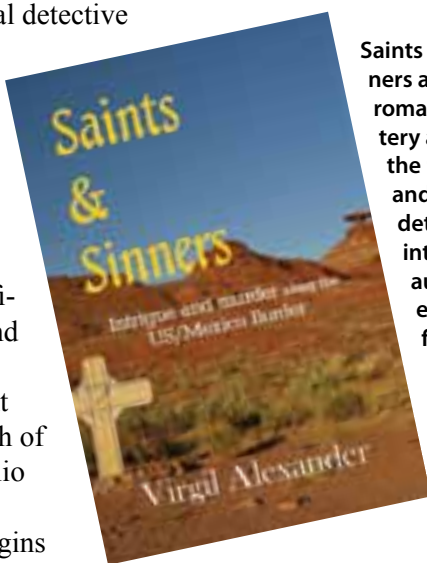


Virgil Alexander, a native of Arizona, recently released his second novel in a series set in the Southwest.

"I grew up around a lot of 'cop talk,'" he says.

Believing that cross-cultural cooperation happens in real-life police work, he chose to depict three very different policemen—a white Mormon, a Hispanic Catholic, and an Apache Tribal Officer—working closely together.

Continued on pg. 29



Saints and Sinners adds a bit of romance and mystery as it follows the procedures and antics of detective friends introduced by author Virgil Alexander in his first book, *The Wham Curse*.

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After Fostering 125 Children, Arizona Mom Gets Dream Job at the Fair

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

“Dreams Delivered” is the theme for this year’s Arizona State Fair, and, according to MaryEllen Simmons, it’s an apt description of the job she’s had for the last seven years. Anytime she can be involved with arts, crafts, sewing and people, she is in her element; she explains, so, working as the Fair’s Superintendent of Sewing and Crafts has truly been a dream delivered.

MaryEllen, who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a teenager, now lives in the Morning Sun Ward, Queen Creek South Stake. She and her husband, Duane, have 10 children and 32 grandchildren. In addition, as foster parents, over the course of 30 years, the Simmonses cared for more than 125 foster children.

As the children filled their home, so did the craft projects.

“I am a crafter. My specialty is crafting with kids. Messy projects are the most fun,” says Sister Simmons.

She also loves to sew.

“I sew every day of my life. It relaxes me if I am stressed,” MaryEllen says. “I never travel overnight without a sewing machine. After all, I might have an idle moment,” she laughs.

MaryEllen and her children have

entered projects in the state fair for many years. One year, at the fair, when MaryEllen was demonstrating how to tie quilts, a manager observed her. As a result, she was offered the job as the Superintendent of Sewing and Crafts.

“I was stunned and thrilled. Who wouldn’t want a job at the fair?” says MaryEllen.

She has been the superintendent for seven years and has been in charge of the arts, crafts and sewing at 11 county fairs in Maricopa and Pinal counties.”

This year, Sister Simmons also will oversee the leather, woodworking and culinary entries as well as those in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) category.

“I get to sleep in a trailer on the fairgrounds for three weeks, smelling all the good fair food. I love seeing what people make. I love everything about the fair, including a chance to interact with other people,” she says.

A published writer and public speaker, MaryEllen currently serves as her ward’s librarian and, with Duane, as a prison ministry worker.

“We love that calling and hope to never ever be released,” she says. “We are assigned to a man in Eloy. We visit regularly and write letters, too.”



Photo courtesy MaryEllen Simmons

MaryEllen Simmons and Sponge Bob enjoy one of the many county fairs where MaryEllen is in charge of several exhibits as Superintendent of Sewing and Crafts, a job she has had for the past seven years.

They keep in touch with another man they worked with, who was transferred to Chino, California, this year.

“We go to Chino every couple months to visit him,” Sister Simmons says.

She also travels to as many fairs as possible in Arizona and California, to see the latest and to get ideas for her “dream job,”

For more information, see: <https://azstatefair.com/>

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Four Arizona Stakes Join Forces with Valley of the Sun United Way to HELP THE HOMELESS

By Katherine Ogden
The Beehive

This past June, four Arizona stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked with The Valley of the Sun United Way to host Project Connect.

Project Connect, started by The Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW), is held monthly, to help ease the challenges for individuals who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness, by bringing together valuable health and human services in a single, accessible location. Individuals can get assistance from the Veterans' Administration, Motor Vehicle Department and Department of Economic Security, and help with such services as housing, health care, clothing, showers, haircuts and bicycle repairs. Participants also are treated to a free meal.

The partnership between VSUW and the four LDS stakes started with Steve Hale, who serves, along with his wife, Melodee, as a service missionary to the Maricopa County jail system. While Brother Hale was teaching in the Estrella jails, an inmate told him about her concerns over a lack of support after being released and ways to transition from jail back to regular life. Brother Hale determined to find out exactly what was available in the area to help with transitioning. It was during a tour of the Paz de Christo outreach center in Mesa, that the manager there showed

Brother Hale a schedule for Project Connect.

Brother Hale attended a Project Connect activity in Tempe, where he thought, "Well, why couldn't the LDS Church do something like this?" He took his idea to the Stake Presidency of the Mesa South Stake and, with their support, the event came together. VSUW was contacted, a date was set, and the Mesa, Kimball and Kimball East stakes were invited to participate in the effort as well.

Donell Heywood, of the Higley Stake (formerly of the Kimball East Stake) had worked with Project Connect for several years as a community volunteer and on the planning committee. Brother Hale asked Sister Heywood to help get things organized, write letters and make assignments.

More than 1,400 people from the four stakes were involved in collecting items for 400 toiletry kits and 400 food packets. They also gathered donations of gently used clothing, shoes, and new or gently used reading glasses and sunglasses. Each stake humani-



Photo by Krystal Adair Hon

The Durrant family helps sort men's clothing as part of a day of service that involved four stakes participating in Project Connect, an ongoing effort of The Valley of the Sun United Way.

tarian leader was in charge of collecting the donated items. Members also were asked to sign up as volunteers to work on the day of the event.

"The real story is how everyone in the wards responded so positively and quickly," says Sister Heywood. "All wards and stakes accepted their assignments, worked together and did an awesome job."

So many items were donated from the members of the stakes that, after serving 307 people, there were approximately 300 food packs and more than 100 toiletry kits left over. Those extra items were used at the July Project Connect event, held at the Grace Community Church in Tempe.

For more information on Project Connect, visit VSUW.com.

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Family Completes Three-Week *Service Project* **DOING CHORES** in 25 Cities Across the Nation

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

This summer, when Gregg and Kami Murset and their six children prepared for a three-week cross-country road trip, their packing list hardly looked like they were leaving on vacation. Instead of toys and games, they packed paintbrushes, cleaning supplies, shovels and tools.

The Mursets are members of the Desert Wells Ward, Queen Creek Arizona Stake. Brother Murset is a certified financial planner and founder and CEO of My Job Chart. His website promotes a strong work ethic. It teaches kids how to handle money, including saving, and spending and, also, sharing with others.

Brother Murset says “giving back” is at the heart of what My Job Chart is about, and he wanted his children to have a powerful “giving back” lesson of their own. After careful advance planning, they were ready for the experience of a lifetime.

An RV was equipped, complete with “Working Across America,” painted in big letters on the side.

Another slogan on the RV was “Kids doing jobs for charity.” Cities they would travel to had been mapped out; and, with the help of local charities, families that needed a helping hand had been identified.

On July 29, Gregg, Kami and their six children—Sterling, 7; Spencer, 9; Adam, 11; Sydney, 13; Sierra 15; and Zach, 16—started out. Over the next 23 days, they stopped in 25 cities in 21 different states, did more than 300 chores, covered 6,511 miles from Phoenix to New York and back and burned in excess of 1,000 gallons of gas. The fuel pump went out in the middle of New Mexico and, on the way home, the air conditioner broke, but they never had

time to get it fixed.

As they helped various families, from those dealing with serious illness to others experiencing financial setbacks, the children wrote in their journals each evening. They recorded their feelings about the service they gave and the people they met. Some of their journal entries, along with a photo gallery of

Continued on pg. 29



Photo credit: MyJobChart.com

The Murset family, of Gilbert, spent 23 days traveling to 21 states, stopping to perform service for families in 25 cities along the way. Shown here are (back row, l to r) the Mursets: (front row, l to r) Spencer, Adam, Sterling and Sydney; and (back row, l to r) father Gregg, Sierra, Zach and mother Kami with Nichol Mattson, a recipient of their service in LaFayette, Colorado.

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Colombian School

Invites Arizona Educator to Train 36 Teachers



Photo by German Rodriguez

Vicki Massey (third from right) with some of the educators she taught this past summer at the "The Marie Curie School" in Bogota, Columbia.

By **Stephanie Abney**
The Beehive

Vicki Massey began her career in education as a much-beloved classroom teacher 26 years ago. As her skills and love of teaching increased, she continued her education at NAU, graduating with a Master of Arts in Science Teaching. Vicki went on to become a Science Specialist with Mesa Public Schools. She retired from the district last year.

Meanwhile, in Bogota, Colombia, husband and wife, German and Fabiola Rodriguez, started a school. Both former science teachers, they wanted a school that would produce more scientists for Colombia. They named their school The Marie Curie School, hoping to encourage more girls to enter the field.

The Rodriguezes knew their teachers needed additional training to promote science. They heard about a Sci-Tech Festival put on by Mesa Public Schools and traveled to Arizona to attend, so they could learn how to put on a similar event in their country.

As a key member of the festival committee, Sister Massey was introduced to them. When the Rodriguezes said they had no one qualified to instruct their teachers, she perked up.

"I said I would come to Colombia and do a training seminar. German Rodriguez, the principal of the school, looked at me and got tears in his eyes. What could I do? Immediately his wife

Continued on pg. 29

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Columbian School
Continued from pg. 28

got out her calendar and set a date. Gulp. I was committed,” Vicki says.

But, then, Sister Massey already knew a great deal about commitment and following her passion. She and her husband, Grant, members of the Val Vista Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake are the parents of six and have three grandchildren. A convert to the LDS Church of 30 years, Vicki has served as Laurel advisor, Primary worker, Primary president, stake Primary leader, Scout leader, Sunday School and Relief Society teacher and librarian. She loves to quilt, garden and play with her grandchildren.

Sister Massey says her experience in Colombia this past summer, which included eating chocolate-covered ants, was successful in many ways.

When she arrived, a classroom had been set up as per her instructions, with the supplies she requested, and she was provided an interpreter. Her course was billed as “Engaging 21st Century Learners,” a hands-on professional

teacher development seminar, by Vicki Massey, MA,” and 36 teachers, from preschool to high school level attended.

Sister Massey taught the Colombian teachers new ways of reaching their students, including how to use cooperative table groups, 5E lessons (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate), inquiry teaching in all subjects and the Engineering Design Process, among other things.

Principal Rodriguez sat in on all the trainings and participated with his teachers.

“How can I know what my teachers are to do if I do not do it myself?” he says.

Sister Massey says, “I received a great deal of satisfaction knowing that I was impacting teachers who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn the best practices in teaching. I loved it so much that I am planning to go back to Bogota in June of 2015 to do another professional development training.”

Doing Chores Across the Nation
Continued from pg. 27

their travels, are posted online under the “Working Across America” link at <http://myjobchart.com/>.

The Mursets washed cars, mowed lawns, weeded, stacked wood, dusted, vacuumed, painted and did whatever chores were needed. One night, seven-year-old Sterling wrote, “We made 100 burritos at the Ronald McDonald House today. It was fun.”

Gregg and his family were interviewed by local and national reporters and TV stations at nearly every stop along the way, even being featured on People.com and the Ellen DeGeneres site.

“We saw compassion close up and personal each and every day,” says Brother Murset. He tells about parents

they met who gave up their dream job or building their dream house because their child was sick and they needed to focus on caring for them.

“I think our kids see the world differently now. They have learned empathy for others, not only because they have stood in their home and met them, but because they have served them. Service softens and changes hearts for the better.”

Sister Murset says, “This family trip was different than any we have ever taken. It was a sweet experience that will get sweeter as we grow older and our children grow up.”

The entire family agrees that it was an amazing experience for them—and something they would like to do again.

To learn more about My Job Chart, visit www.myjobchart.com

Arizona Native Publishes Book
Continued from pg. 24

“While there is a tendency today (which I don’t agree with) to separate everybody into groups and subgroups by race, ethnicity, or other such things, I know of many situations where people of very diverse backgrounds work together and form friendships similar to those depicted in my books,” he says.

Because the plot centers on a kidnapping and murder, the story includes some violence.

“Mexican drug cartels commit up to 45,000 murders per year; [so] telling a related story can’t ignore that fact,” he says. However, he adds, “I write things that I will never regret having my grandchildren read. I have very tradi-

tional, family-oriented values and try hard to keep my stories safely in those bounds.”

Brother Alexander joined the LDS Church in Miami, Ariz., when he was 16. In his youth, he traveled through Southern Arizona many times for Church functions.

Southern Arizona, he says, is “not only a unique and varied habitat, but kind of a unique brand of civilization. It’s a great place to live and a fun place to write about. It’s an easy place to fall in love with, and I am hopelessly smitten.”

Saints and Sinners is available at local LDS booksellers and online. For a complete listing, visit <http://virgilalexander.weebly.com>.

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Childhood Faith

Led to Conversion to LDS Church

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Even as a little girl, Janna O'Loughlin had strong faith. "I talked with God; I had seen Him in my mind; I knew He was my Father. I knew He was all powerful and I also knew He was like unto the image of a man," she says

"On lazy summer afternoons, I would lay a blanket on the grass in the backyard and talk with God. I remember asking, 'I know there are other worlds out there and I want to know if you are their God too or if they have another God? Is Jesus the Savior for all the worlds or just planet Earth?'"

She had heard about the Mormons, but not the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and had no idea they were one and the same.

Janna says, "When I was 25 and planning to marry, my husband-to-be

expressed his desire for our family to be grounded in the Mormon Church. Having been raised as a strong Bible-belt Baptist, my first question in response was, 'Do the Mormons even believe in Jesus Christ?'"

The next step was meeting with the missionaries.

She says, although she had a strong Christian background, she didn't accept the doctrine of the Trinity, that God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are the same being in different forms.

"I knew from the depth of my soul that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost were separate beings, but one in purpose. With the first missionary lesson, I knew I had found the Church that believed what I had known to be truth," Janna says.

It all seemed to make perfect sense, until they discussed baptism for the

dead.

"Everything came to a screeching halt," Janna says.

She knew other religions preached about saving others, praying them to Heaven, but knew this to be false. Confused and discouraged, she wondered, "How could I find something I'd been searching for my whole life only to have it taken away?"

Then, she says, "All of the sudden I felt as though I was rising up and cool water had been poured over my head and descended throughout my body. I had to look down to see if I was still in my chair. Where the room had been filled with bewilderment, it was instantly replaced with calm, sweet peace. I felt a voice saying, 'Janna, listen to what they are teaching.' The confusion was gone and I was able to be taught."



Picture courtesy of Janna O'Loughlin

Janna O'Loughlin, who joined the Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints at 26, says her conversion journey began much earlier, when, as a child she talked with God.

Since that time, Janna's testimony has continued to grow, line upon line and precept upon precept. Now a member of the Catalina Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, she is grateful to have the Gospel in her life and encourages others to share.

"Trust that the Lord is already preparing those whose time has come to hear the Gospel," she says. "Keep it simple; don't stress over missionary work ... the only thing you have to do is provide a reason for someone to seek you out when they have a question, which will start a discussion about the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

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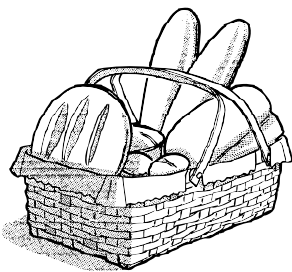
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Sep 23 • 11am

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Sep 24 • 7pm ~ Sep 25 • 11am ~ Sep 27 • 11am

Spicy Thai! - \$15*

Sep 25 • 7pm

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Graham County Offers a Scenic Setting and Famous Family Fun

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Families across the state look to Graham County in southeast Arizona as a terrific destination for family getaways, fun and recreation—all in a historic setting, teeming with Arizona tradition and charm.

The county features some of the most scenic terrain in the Southwest, highlighted in over 4 million acres of national forest and protected wilderness lands, pristine high desert beauty, the lush Gila Valley and towering pines on Mount Graham.

"People like rural areas like this. We have the desert, mountains, river and hot springs—so much diversity with what you can do," says Chamber of Commerce president Marie Freestone.

The three great communities of Safford, Thatcher, and Pima, now connected by U.S. Route 70, were settled by LDS pioneer families in the 1870s and 1880s. The Gila Valley Arizona Temple, nestled between Pima and Thatcher, and approximately a 2½-hour drive south of Mesa, was the third temple built in Arizona. It was dedicated May 23, 2010, following the

Mesa Arizona Temple (1927) and the Snowflake Arizona Temple (2002).

Graham County is the home of Arizona's Salsa Trail®, featuring 11 restaurants and a country store. The Salsa Trail® is highlighted by this year's 8th Annual SalsaFest to be held in downtown Safford Friday evening, September 26, and Saturday, September 27. The annual event, hosted by the Safford Lions Club, celebrates great food and family fun. Activities include a salsa-making competition, Chihuahua races, vendors, a Kidz Korner, Mariachi bands, door prizes, magic shows, a jalapeno-eating contest and salsa tasting. Adding to the family fun will be the "Hot Cars on the Salsa Trail®" car show on Main Street. The SalsaFest is a community event designed for family enjoyment. Proceeds from the event go to support scholarships and service projects of the Safford Lions Club.

Other area attractions in the area include the Mt. Graham International Observatory (MGIO), boasting the world's largest binocular telescope, called the "number one telescope in the world in

terms of importance." One of the newest and best scopes anywhere, it sees 10 times further than the Hubble telescope. Guided tours are available seasonally.

Natural, mineral hot springs dot the area and the largest copper-producing mine in North America (the second biggest manmade hole on earth!) is next door in Greenlee County.

The Graham County Chamber of Commerce Visitors' Center offers information, including brochures describing and mapping out the Salsa Trail®, hiking trails, and historic walking and driving tours. A "birding" brochure describes the more than 300 types of birds found in the area. The Chamber of Commerce is located at 1111 Thatcher Blvd. in Safford. Call 928-428-2511 or go to www.visit-grahamcounty.com or www.salsatrail.com for information about activities, hotels and other things to see and do in Graham County.



Photo Courtesy of Graham County Chamber of Commerce

The SalsaFest, now in its 8th year—featuring salsa tasting, jalapeno-eating contests, the "Hot Cars on the Salsa Trail(r)" car show, and much more—is just one of many family-friendly reasons to visit Graham County.

Life brings change, but families are forever



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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Here I am, seated in the uncomfortable metal bleachers of the local high school with thousands of other parents, friends, and well wishers, wondering, watching, and waiting for the grandiose ceremony to commence. The symphony orchestra strikes up the graduation anthem as hundreds of high school seniors file in one by one, tasseled caps and crisp graduation gowns fluttering in the summer breeze.

I scan the serpentine line, anxiously searching for my second eldest son. My heart skips a beat as students march past while air horns blare, spontaneous applause erupts, and random parents shout as the graduation procession advances. Eventually, I spy my graduate in the distance. He stands head and shoulders above his fellow graduates, literally, his tall frame shrouded in emerald green. The procession approaches and my mind wanders.

Where has the time gone? I can't believe I'm experiencing yet another milestone in his young life. I am nervous about what lies ahead. My mind flashes back to his childhood, bowl hair cut and chubby faced. His inquisitive, creative, and gentle nature intrigued me and I wondered what life path he would choose. Now here he is, standing on the brink of adulthood, ready to try his fledgling wings and soar.

My graduate quickly draws near and in an instant, I am snapped back into reality. I promptly stand, shout his name, and furiously wave, but mine is only one voice among thousands, one gesture lost in the excited throng. It seems pointless to try to capture his attention amid the ensuing chaos.

I remain standing, hoping somehow he knows that I'm here supporting him. I watch his lengthy stride and revel in this momentous occasion. As he advances down the crimson track surrounding the football field, my mind wanders again and takes me back to his Varsity cross country season, running miles about this very raceway. I vividly remember his unwavering athletic stamina, his remarkable work ethic, and his milestone achievement of jetting a sub-five minute mile.

In my mind's eye, I see him leading the runner's pack, setting the pace, lengthy legs striding and headband bobbing. I remember the hundreds of miles his feet pounded the pavement, the medals and ribbons he earned, and

the exuberance he felt at crossing the finish line first and without a moment's hesitation, headed straight up the bleachers towards me. I'll never forget my own exuberance that he picked me to grace him with his celebratory hug after earning first place in the fastest race of his life.

A blast from a neighboring air horn brings me back to reality once more. My graduate is now walking directly in front of where I'm standing in the bleachers. I wildly wave and savagely

scream his name, but amid the extravagant dissonance of the crowd, I'm drowned out yet again.

However, he scans the metallic stands as he passes. I hope that he can somehow pick me out of the ensuing pandemonium. Nevertheless, he knows I'm here somewhere.

Suddenly, he turns and faces my direction, steadily searching the crowd. He finally spots me and our eyes meet. He flashes a broad smile and waves, once more discovering me supporting

him from the metal bleachers. In an instant, he turns and rejoins the distinguished procession, leaving me beckoning.

I now realize that as he embarks upon his new adventure, stretching his wings and soaring through life without his mother, I can find solace in the fact that he will always be able to find me. I will be forever supporting him from my usual spot, waving wildly from atop the metal bleachers.

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Two years ago, Cheryl Standage left behind a successful banking and management career and followed her passion, opening Piefection, a one-of-a-kind, made-from-scratch pie shop in East Mesa.

Now, moving into the third year of her venture, Cheryl is more excited than ever.

"I love it. It's still fun, still exciting; and we are always creating new things, offering new and exciting specials."

She looks forward to continuing to serve Piefection's signature pies, homemade rolls and other bakery items to loyal fans—while welcoming newcomers, including party planners and pie lovers, who are including pies in their large celebrations, weddings, holiday gatherings or for an easy after-dinner dessert.

"We have loyal customers who

come once a week from all over, even from Peoria and North Phoenix. One man comes from Show Low every Thursday and orders his standard—Apple Crunch pie," Cheryl says, "and we have new customers who discover us every day."

Piefection features whole pies to go, in 50 different varieties, with everything made in house daily. To the standard favorites—coconut cream, chocolate cream, banana cream, lemon meringue, country apple, Georgia peach, Michigan cherry and more—they have added specialty pies—like white chocolate raspberry, blueberry sour cream, southern pecan, Almond Joy and French silk.

"We have a plethora of upscale specialty pies, including some you cannot get anywhere else, because we developed the idea here," Cheryl says.

Many of those are featured as the "Pie-of-the-Month," such as September's, Turtle Cheesecake, "with a chocolate cookie crust, filled with creamy cheesecake, topped with homemade caramel and chopped pecans and drizzled in chocolate," and, "check out our new signature pumpkin pie in October," Cheryl says.

In addition, Piefection's homemade rolls, made with real butter and fresh eggs, are "even-better-than Grandma's;" and their pot pies in five varieties—chicken, turkey, green chili pork, Italian beef and pizza—are available to "take and bake" or "baked off" and ready to eat.

Every new item added to the Piefection menu meets the same standard of quality Cheryl set from the beginning.

"Observing my mother and my grandmother cooking and baking, I

developed a relentless passion to follow their example, and to always do it with quality ingredients to create the most fabulous food possible."

"We use no preservatives or additives and only the finest ingredients—freshly ground nutmeg, real butter, real whipping cream," Cheryl says. "We use authentic Callebaut chocolate and the best-tasting fruits, including wild, uncultivated blueberries and Michigan cherries."

"We invite you to come taste the difference these quality ingredients make."

Piefection, at 6731 E. Brown Road (southwest corner of Power and Brown) in Mesa, is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.piefectionaz.com, find them on Facebook at facebook.com/piefectionPieShop, or call 480 218 7437.



Photo by Miriam Padilla

Piefection, a unique, made-from-scratch pie shop, recently celebrated it's second anniversary since opening in East Mesa and looks forward to another year of sharing its delicious signature desserts, dinner rolls and pot pies with loyal fans and news customers as well.

Meticulous Mesa Attorney Makes the Best Out of Every Case

By Emily Robbins
The Beehive

East Valley litigation attorney, Brent Bryson, takes a detail-oriented approach to his job and has a reputation for getting results.

Bryson's career combines his passion for history, government and law and his enjoyment of the offensive/defensive nature of the courtroom.

"Figuring out how to present the best parts of your case and shoring up the weakest aspects provides a constant challenge," Bryson says. "I enjoy the intellectual challenge; it combines knowing how to use the rules and how to serve your client. It's the combination of those two things that make the job worthwhile."

After 10 years as a prosecutor and practicing commercial law, Bryson opened his private practice in 2006.

Now, specializing in family law, personal injury and commercial litigation, he uses his significant experience in gathering every possible detail to

make the best case.

Unlike other law offices, Bryson Law Firm offers direct interaction between Bryson and his clients. During the initial consultation he can pick up on the minute details and nuances that make for a stronger case in the courtroom.

"I've had clients express surprise when they saw during the court proceedings how much detail I got from them in our consultations," Bryson said. "I am able to understand and to utilize the details they give me to emphasize the information I want the jury to receive."

This hands-on approach gives Bryson the advantage. Really getting to know his clients and discussing their case in depth it easier to present a solid, convincing case to the judge or jury.

"The facts are more important than the law," Bryson said. "The judges already know the law. But, it's the de-

tails that make the difference between victory and loss."

After the initial consultation, clients sometimes will meet with his paralegal, Mesa native Marianne (Magnusson) Korrell.

According to Bryson, Marianne is the best paralegal in the Valley. She helps with information gathering, paperwork, research and writing, and plays a big part in helping Bryson Law Firm run seamlessly.

Bryson's wife, Julia, has been a great support as well, both in caring for their home and two children and in contributing her marketing and public relations expertise to help grow the practice.

Bryson believes his firm offers the best service for the cost.

"I've repeatedly had cases where we've gotten tremendous victories for our clients, and my bill was half the bill of the other side," Bryson said.



Photo courtesy Brent Bryson

Brent Bryson, an East Valley litigation attorney, spent 10 years as a prosecutor and practicing commercial law, before opening his private practice eight years ago.

The steady growth of his referral-based and repeat clientele seems to back up this claim.

"If I didn't have people who were happy with my work, I would not be getting new business," Bryson says. "I'm about to celebrate my eighth anniversary being on my own, and it's just gotten better and better."

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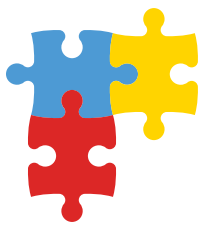
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AUTISM ACADEMY

Now with two campuses, school addresses special needs of students with Autism

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Now with two locations in the East Valley, the innovative Autism Academy for Education and Development offers the “best choice for success for children with Autism throughout Arizona.”

“The Autism Academy believes that children with Autism will flourish with programming tailored to their specific needs,” says program director, Shannon Henley.

She adds that the school serves students in kindergarten through 12th grade, along “the full spectrum from high functioning Asperger’s Syndrome all the way to low, nonverbal students.”

At both the original location in Gilbert and the recently added Tempe location, which has middle school and high school grades only, students are placed in classrooms according to their age and functioning level.

“We provide an environment that is highly predictable, with a beginning, middle and end to each activity,” Henley says.

Autism Academy’s teaching model also includes small teacher-student

ratios, highly qualified and certified teachers and curriculum geared to students with special needs. This is augmented with additional benefits of group rotation, the use of technology, interactive play, and classes in art, music and physical education. The school also offers pet therapy, Karate twice a year for a month each time, and, at the Tempe location, students participate in computer classes as well.

“We’re very child-focused,” Henley says. “We have highly skilled teachers, behavior specialists, speech therapists and occupational therapists.”

“There is a lot of collaboration, a lot of communication about what is going on each day,” Henley says.

This includes communication with parents, Henley says, adding that Autism Academy has several things in place to help bridge the home-school connection.

Autism Academy has an active parent organization and parent programs that include parent trainings each month.

The school was founded by Laura Newcomb, who saw a tremendous need for education that meets the needs of



Photo Courtesy of the Autism Academy

The Autism Academy, founded on the belief that children with autism will flourish with programming tailored to their needs, is now serving students in Kindergarten through 12th grade in two locations in the East Valley.

children with Autism. Newcomb’s passion was to provide these students an opportunity to access the “social skills, life skills development, and innovative therapies” and, ultimately, “to reach their highest potential.”

“Here, students feel included. They get the individualized support they need. But, we also have high expectations. We’re always pushing them forward, helping them find success.”

“Our goal is to help each student become a productive, contributing member of society, at whatever level they can be,” Henley says. “We don’t

want them to just gain information, but to be able to use all the information they’ve learned.”

Autism Academy has found innovative ways to collaborate with publicly funded schools, so they can offer high quality education at an affordable rate and through scholarships to “keep the cost lower for everyone,” Henley says.

For more information about the Autism Academy for Education and Development, visit www.autismacademyed.com, call 480-240-9255 or email info@autismacademyed.com.

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Meldrum

MORTUARY & CREMATORY

Continuing a long history of serving families in their time of need

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

The staff at Meldrum Mortuary and Crematory have solid reputation for always looking for ways to better serve families. Their roots in the community run deep and many valley residents have come to depend on them during their most difficult times.

In 1926, while in Salt Lake City to attend LDS General Conference, Mesa resident, John Jacob Huber, Sr., visited a friend who owned a mortuary in Charleston, Utah. At the time, a young man named Jess Meldrum was working as an apprentice there. Brother Huber encouraged Jess to move to Mesa, because, as he put it, "Mesa needs a Mormon mortuary." The owner of the Charleston mortuary owner

told Jess to take one of the hearses and to repay him when he could.

With that, Jess and his wife, Inez, packed their belongings, and with their young son, Donald, moved to Mesa. They purchased the William Burton Mortuary in 1927.

Since then, the Meldrum family has owned and operated the funeral home in the original location, 52 N. Macdonald.

During World War II, the mortuary had a contract with Williams Field Army Air Force Base to take care of U.S. airmen killed during training. The mortuary also had a contract with Falcon Field for the British soldiers who died during flight training. Jess's son,

Mark Meldrum, who still is actively involved in the daily operation of the mortuary, remembers being called out of school as a teenager to help his father after a bomber crashed in the desert.

Over the years, Jess built up the mortuary to better meet the needs of the families served. Originally a small frame building, Meldrum Mortuary now includes larger arrangement rooms, a 250-seat chapel and a crematorium—all on site.

With Mark and Jess's grandson, Mark, Jr., also involved, Meldrum Mortuary is the oldest family-owned and operated mortuary in the state of Arizona.

"The entire staff has continually looked for better ways to serve families who have come to depend on Meldrum Mortuary and Crematory," Mark says. "Offering choices in funeral arrangements, providing assistance after the funeral and maintaining comfortable surroundings are just a few of the ways we can help."

One of the most valuable services offered is advance funeral planning. Patrons find peace of mind as Medrum's staff members provide answers about funeral costs and options, help in organizing personal records, and assist in choosing options for pre-arrangement and pre-financing.

Their website, at www.meldrummortuary.com, provides information and details regarding services offered, including frequently asked questions, what to do when death occurs, plus helpful forms and online tools.

Staff members are on-call to answer questions or assist as needed at any time, 24/7, and can be reached by calling (480) 834-9255 (Phoenix Metropolitan area) or toll free at (800) 682-8119.

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Trek Connects Pinetop-Lakeside Stake Youth to their History & Heritage

By Robert Boyle
The Beehive

As the Pinetop-Lakeside Stake made plans for a pioneer trek reenactment this summer, extreme fire danger in the area meant a feasible trail was not available.

However, the Ellsworth and Perkins families and others stepped up, graciously allowing access to their land and a route that would work.

"Thanks to these families, the trek went off without a hitch in the cedars, sage, cactus and a scenic river bottom," says Emily Boyle, one of the trek "Mas."

Interestingly, she says, "This private land holds a close tie to the first handcart company."

Brigham Young called Edmund L. Ellsworth to lead the first company of handcart pioneers from Iowa to the Salt Lake Valley. Ellsworth later arrived in the Show Low area in 1880 and is buried there.

"His family purchased ranch property which has been passed down and now provided a place

for a group of youth and leaders to have an extraordinary experience. ... it was neat to think that we would be pulling handcarts on property that, in a way, had a connection to the first captain of the handcart company of 1856."

She says, as the trek began, the makeshift "family" quickly felt a connection as well. "We went from just names on a piece of paper, to family," Emily says.

As they trekked, the Young Men and Women learned powerful lessons.

A highlight for Zack Perkins, 17, was "getting to befriend people that I never thought I would in a million years."

Jace "Fish," 14, says, "When everyone started to push together, it became much easier to push. This just shows the advantages of working as a team with those around you instead of trying to handle it by yourself."

Anna Alder, 14, mentions how her trek family sought to satisfy others' needs before their own.

"Yes, we'd only known each other for a few days, but we were still a family and we helped each other," she says.

Maryon Wallentine, another trek Ma, saw an analogy in the women's pull. "We all face difficult challenges in life," she says. "These are our own steep and rocky hills to climb. Family and friends can show love and support, but it is our own heavy load we must pull. Each difficult step takes determination and faith. We may have to learn to accept service in order to succeed. We can do hard things."

"Our three-day trek was difficult and amazing," says Sister Boyle. "Its impact lies within those of the company who did as my great-great grandfather, John D.T. McAllister, encouraged in the Handcart Song. We set ourselves to the task of merrily pushing and pulling until we reached, at last, our own Valley-O. ... And then we ate ice cream and Mexican food."

Photo by Chris Paxman

Young Men and Women of the Pinetop-Lakeside Stake learned lessons about their pioneer heritage while on a trek reenactment on land that has links to the first pioneer handcart company of 1856.

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ANASAZI Foundation, a nonprofit behavioral healthcare provider, is recognized internationally for helping young people who struggle with depression, suicidal ideation, substance abuse, or other behavioral and emotional concerns.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Annually, a scholarship Gala—with a silent auction and top entertainers—is held to generate funds for families in need who would not otherwise be able to afford their teen's participation in the ANASAZI program.

The event highlights the remarkable stories of ANASAZI alumni – young people who have overcome significant personal challenges to achieve their dreams. Selected recipients of the Young Leader Award will be recognized and awarded college scholarships.

This year's Gala and silent auction will be Saturday, November 22, at the SanTan Elegante conference center in

Gilbert. The event will feature entertainment by Broadway sensations, Dallyn Bayles and Sandra Turley. Bayles, a professional actor, singer and recording artist, performed with the Broadway touring company of The Phantom of the Opera, and recently starred in the world premiere of The Weaver of Raveloe.

Sandra Turley starred in Les Misérables on Broadway and is a popular public speaker. She will soon release her second album, "Inside My Soul."

For details about the Gala or to donate to the silent auction call (480) 892-7403, e-mail info@anasazi.org. To make reservations, visit www.anasazi.org.

Upcoming Movie on Trail of Book of Mormon artifact

Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The new film 16 Stones brings together faith and adventure in a unique combination. Set to release October 3 in Utah and in Arizona shortly thereafter, the film explores an almost-legendary part of the Book of Mormon—the Jaredite stones.

"Although there are a lot of adventure movies and several movies that are spiritual and deal with issues of faith, it's rare to find one that combines both," said director Brian Brough. "16 Stones is an inspirational movie that will also take you on a fun, adventurous journey."

The fictional story is set in the late 1830s, a time when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints suffered much persecution. On the fringes of Far

West, Missouri, a mob attacks Church members. A young man and two friends set out to find indisputable proof to show the world that The Book of Mormon is true, in hopes that such proof will save others from future persecution. The proof they seek is something that, if found, could not be contested: the 16 Jaredite stones, touched by the finger of the Lord as recounted in the Book of Ether.

"Their journey is not an easy one," said Brough. "One of the key messages to the film is that proof doesn't build faith, but instead, faith and testimonies are built by developing a personal relationship with God."

Learn more at: www.16stonesmovie.com or, on Facebook: [facebook.com/CandlelightMediaGroup](https://www.facebook.com/CandlelightMediaGroup).



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